

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 123625 TOSEC 020048

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, GW

SUBJECT: NATO SUMMIT: BILATERAL BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND
CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT

REF: BONN 08413

1. THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS, ON THE US-USSR ARMS
BALANCE SHOULD BE PLACED IN ALL COPIES OF THE BRIEFING
PAPER (FOLLOWING ITEM ENDING ON PAGE FOURTEEN) FOR
PRESIDENT'S BILATERAL WITH SCHMIDT. BEGIN TEXT.

2. THE ARMS RACE. IN ADDITION TO MBFR AND PROGRESS ON
SPECIFIC TOPICS UNDER DISCUSSION IN SALT II, THE FRG
IS INTERESTED IN THE STATE OF THE US-USSR WORLDWIDE
MILITARY BALANCE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT
MAY ASK YOUR VIEWS CONCERNING THE "ARMS RACE," INCLUDING
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ITS NAVAL ASPECTS.

YOUR TALKING POINTS (IF RAISED)

--IT IS TRUE THAT THE SOVIETS NOW DEVOTE MORE RESOURCES, MEASURED IN US PRICES, THAN THE US DOES IN MOST CATEGORIES OF MILITARY SPENDING. MOREOVER, THE USSR IS ENGAGED IN A MAJOR STRATEGIC FORCE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM, INCLUDING

THE MIRVING OF ITS ICBM FORCE. WE CAN EXPECT TO SEE VERY SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN BOTH THE ICBM AND SLBM FORCES OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS, BUT WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THESE IMPROVEMENTS WILL NOT GIVE THE SOVIETS ANYTHING APPROXIMATING A FIRST STRIKE CAPABILITY.

--THE US CONTINUES TO RETAIN SIGNIFICANT QUALITATIVE ADVANTAGES IN ITS STRATEGIC FORCES, HOWEVER, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO INTERCONTINENTAL BOMBERS AND SEA-BASED STRATEGIC MISSILES. IN ADDITION, THE ANTICIPATED SALT TWO AGREEMENT WILL PREVENT THE SOVIETS FROM FULLY CAPITALIZING ON THEIR ICBM THROW WEIGHT ADVANTAGE BY LIMITING THE NUMBER OF MIRVED MISSILES. THUS, THE US WILL CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME TO ENJOY A LARGE LEAD IN THE NUMBER OF DELIVERABLE WARHEADS. OVER

THE LONGER RUN WE WILL PRESERVE THE EXISTING ESSENTIAL EQUIVALENCE, BOTH THROUGH FOLLOW-ON SALT AGREEMENTS AND BY IMPROVING OUR BOMBER, ICBM AND SLBM FORCES AS NECESSARY TO OFFSET SOVIET PROGRAMS.

--IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITY INCREASED SHARPLY IN THE LATE 1960'S, AND THAT THE USSR HAS DEMONSTRATED A SIGNIFICANT CAPABILITY TO SURGE AND SUPPORT NAVAL FORCES.

--THE WORLDWIDE NAVAL EXERCISE--CALLED OKEAN-75--WHICH THE SOVIETS CONDUCTED IN APRIL SHED LIGHT ON THE WARTIME ROLE OF THE SOVIET NAVY IN PREVENTING ALLIED NAVAL FORCES FROM CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEFENSE OF WESTERN EUROPE. SIMULTANEOUSLY, SOVIET NAVAL FORCE CAN BE EXPECTED TO ATTEMPT TO NEUTRALIZE WESTERN STRATEGIC DETERRENT NAVAL
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FORCES SUCH AS BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINES AND ATTACK CARRIERS, WHILE DEFENDING SOVIET STRATEGIC DETERRENT SUBMARINES. HOWEVER, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT US SSBN'S ARE SURVIVABLE FOR THE INDEFINITE FUTURE.

--IN GENERAL US AND ALLIED NAVAL UNITS ARE LARGER, MORE SOPHISTICATED, AND HAVE A GREATER CAPACITY FOR SUSTAINED ACTION--ADVANTAGES WHICH TEND TO OFFSET

SOMEWHAT THE GROWING NUMBER OF SOVIET WARSHIPS. WHILE
SOVIET NAVAL FORCES STILL EMPHASIZE ANTISHIP CAPABILITY,
US AND ALLIED FORCES EMPHASIZE SEA CONTROL AND PROJECTION
OF POWER ASHORE.

--US PLANNED NAVAL MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS WILL ENABLE US

TO CONTINUE A STRONG NAVAL PRESENCE DEPLOYED FORWARD IN
SUPPORT OF NATO'S DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS.
END TEXT. INGERSOLL

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